

May 31, 1991

LB 783A

carefully for a couple of reasons. They are losing money currently on the line and it has to be kept open and operational as long as the abandonment proceedings are ongoing. Secondly, they will incur significant legal costs during the process. They will incur substantial political costs, if you will, during the process. And, in addition, they are not guaranteed of success.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So in order to run that risk, there must be something on the other side of the fence that is very alluring and appealing to the railroad...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...in all of this.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: In terms of a settlement with someone who can pay, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if they get what it is they want, this that you're talking about is inconsequential to them. And by that I mean this \$5 million that the state wants to give them for this piece of trackage.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Oh, I think in terms of their total assets it's not significant.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now do you think that a railroad would carry more weight in appearing before the...is it the Interstate Commerce Commission...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...than somebody from the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: In this case, no, because I believe that Senator Pressler from South Dakota and Senator Exon from the State of Nebraska, both of which sit on subcommittee...on a subcommittee that has oversight of the Interstate Commerce Commission, have taken a great interest in this abandonment proceeding and...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...and will do all they can to oppose the